GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1227
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Heritage Status to Indian Cities
Verma Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cities of India are designated as Heritage cities by the UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of cities in Uttar Pradesh designated as Heritage city; and

(e) the details of the criteria for selection of Heritage cities by the UNESCO?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (c) No, Madam. At present no city from India is designated as Heritage City by the UNESCO. As of now, only five Indian historic cities feature on India's Tentative List to UNESCO (List attached at Annexure-I) which is a mandatory requirement before a State Party submits the main nomination dossier. Presently, the proposal for 'Historic City of Ahmedabad' has been submitted to the UNESCO for their consideration

(d) Nil.

(e) The criteria for selection of Heritage sites including cities by the UNESCO is at Annexure-II.

Annexure I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1227 FOR 25.07.2016
Cultural and Natural Properties on the Tentative List (46)

1. Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (03/07/1998)
2. Apatani Cultural Landscape (15/04/2014)
3. Archaeological remains of a Harappa Port-Town, Lothal (15/04/2014)
4. BahÃ¡'Ã House of Worship at New Delhi (15/04/2014)
5. Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (26/05/2009)
6. Cellular Jail, Andaman Islands (15/04/2014)
7. Chettinad, Village Clusters of the Tamil Merchants (15/04/2014)
8. Chilika Lake (15/04/2014)
9. Cold Desert Cultural Landscape of India (15/04/2015)
10. Delhi - A Heritage City (22/05/2012)
11. Desert National Park (26/05/2009)
12. Dholavira: A Harappan City (15/04/2014)
13. Ekamra Kshetra − The Temple City, Bhubaneswar (15/04/2014)
14. Evolution of Temple Architecture − Aihole-Badami- Pattadakal (09/02/2015)
15. Excavated Remains at Nalanda (09/01/2009)
16. Group of Monuments at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh (03/07/1998)
17. Historic city of Ahmadabad (31/03/2011)
18. Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India (15/04/2014)
19. Jaipur city, Rajasthan India (15/04/2015)
20. Kangchendzonga National Park (15/03/2006)
21. Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam, Kerala (03/07/1998)
22. Moidams − the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty (15/04/2014)
23. Monuments and Forts of the Deccan Sultanate (15/04/2014)
24. Monuments of Srirangapatna Island Town (15/04/2014)
25. Mountain Railways of India (Extension) (15/04/2014)
26. Mughal Gardens in Kashmir (13/12/2010)

27. Namdapha National Park (15/03/2006)
28. Narcondam Island (15/04/2014)
29. Neora Valley National Park (26/05/2009)
30. Padmanabhapuram Palace (15/04/2014)
31. River Island of Majuli in midstream of Brahmaputra River in Assam (02/03/2004)
32. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala (15/04/2014)
33. Santiniketan (20/01/2010)
34. Silk Road Sites in India (20/01/2010)
35. Sites along the Uttarapath, Badshahi Sadak, Sadak-e-Azam, Grand Trunk Road (15/04/2015)
36. Sites of Saytagrah, India's non-violent freedom movement (15/04/2014)
37. Sri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar, Punjab (05/01/2004)
38. Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam (15/04/2014)
39. Temples at Bishnupur, West Bengal (03/07/1998)
40. The Glorious Kakatiya Temples and Gateways (15/04/2014)
41. The Neolithic Settlement of Burzahom (15/04/2014)
42. The Qutb Shahi Monuments of Hyderabad Golconda Fort, Qutb Shahi Tombs, Charminar (10/09/2010)
43. The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (22/05/2012)
44. Thembang Fortified Village (15/04/2014)
45. Urban and Architectural Work of Le Corbusier in Chandigarh (23/10/2006)
46. Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch (15/03/2006)

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1227 FOR 25.7.2016
Criteria for consideration :

i. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
iii. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
v. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
vi. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
vii. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
viii. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth"s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
ix. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
x. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.